

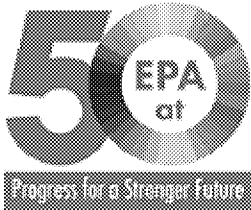
Message

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**From:** Landis, Jeffrey [Landis.Jeffrey@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 1/21/2020 4:25:02 PM  
**To:** Taylor, Daniel [taylor.daniel@epa.gov]; Leonard, Paul [leonard.paul@epa.gov]; Dietz, Linda [Dietz.Linda@epa.gov]; Nevshehirlian, Stepan [Nevshehirlian.Stepan@epa.gov]; Root, Charlie [Root.Charlie@epa.gov]; O'Loughlin, Connor [oloughlin.connor@epa.gov]; Baker, Lorie [Baker.Lorie@epa.gov]  
**CC:** Brown, Kinshasa [Brown.Kinshasa@epa.gov]; White, Terri-A [White.Terri-A@epa.gov]; Nitsch, Chad [Nitsch.Chad@epa.gov]; Miles, Amanda [miles.amanda@epa.gov]; Howell, Amie [Howell.Amie@epa.gov]; Seneca, Roy [Seneca.Roy@epa.gov]; Sternberg, David [Sternberg.David@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: MEDIA INQUIRY: The News Journal Media Group (Sussex Co) - Blades clean-up follow-up questions

Sounds good, and thank you!

r/ Jeff Landis  
Region 3 Office of Public Affairs  
Media Relations/Executive Events Coordinator  
215-814-2921; mobile 215-901-7424



---

**From:** Taylor, Daniel <taylor.daniel@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 21, 2020 11:08 AM  
**To:** Landis, Jeffrey <Landis.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; Leonard, Paul <leonard.paul@epa.gov>; Dietz, Linda <Dietz.Linda@epa.gov>; Nevshehirlian, Stepan <Nevshehirlian.Stepan@epa.gov>; Root, Charlie <Root.Charlie@epa.gov>; O'Loughlin, Connor <oloughlin.connor@epa.gov>; Baker, Lorie <Baker.Lorie@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Brown, Kinshasa <Brown.Kinshasa@epa.gov>; White, Terri-A <White.Terri-A@epa.gov>; Nitsch, Chad <Nitsch.Chad@epa.gov>; Miles, Amanda <miles.amanda@epa.gov>; Howell, Amie <Howell.Amie@epa.gov>; Seneca, Roy <Seneca.Roy@epa.gov>; Sternberg, David <Sternberg.David@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: MEDIA INQUIRY: The News Journal Media Group (Sussex Co) - Blades clean-up follow-up questions

Thanks for passing this along Jeff,  
I am working with Lorie to provide the redacted DNREC Procino Site Investigation on our Blades Superfund page website so we can just provide the reporter with our Blades url.

---

**From:** Landis, Jeffrey <Landis.Jeffrey@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 21, 2020 7:49 AM  
**To:** Leonard, Paul <leonard.paul@epa.gov>; Dietz, Linda <Dietz.Linda@epa.gov>; Nevshehirlian, Stepan <Nevshehirlian.Stepan@epa.gov>; Taylor, Daniel <taylor.daniel@epa.gov>; Root, Charlie <Root.Charlie@epa.gov>; O'Loughlin, Connor <oloughlin.connor@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Brown, Kinshasa <Brown.Kinshasa@epa.gov>; White, Terri-A <White.Terri-A@epa.gov>; Nitsch, Chad <Nitsch.Chad@epa.gov>; Miles, Amanda <miles.amanda@epa.gov>; Howell, Amie <Howell.Amie@epa.gov>; Seneca, Roy <Seneca.Roy@epa.gov>; Sternberg, David <Sternberg.David@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: MEDIA INQUIRY: The News Journal Media Group (Sussex Co) - Blades clean-up follow-up questions  
**Importance:** High

Team,

After sending the response to the reporter late Friday, we got the following follow-up question regarding if all 7 private wells (out of 54 tested) were tested for metals and if those results are available:

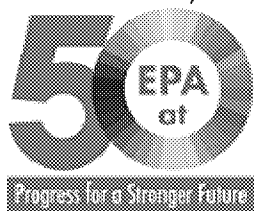
**Reporter's follow-up questions (round 3):**

"If I can just double-triple check the metals testing for private wells....

Seven private wells (out of 54 tested) were given treatment systems. Were all of those wells also tested for metals? If so, where can I find those results (if they're on the EPA's website for the proposal, the doc. number would do the trick)?"

Can we address these follow-up and send today?

r/ Jeff Landis  
Region 3 Office of Public Affairs  
Media Relations/Executive Events Coordinator  
215-814-2921; mobile 215-901-7424

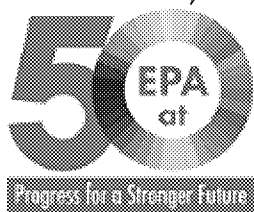


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**From:** Landis, Jeffrey  
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2020 4:22 PM  
**To:** Fields, Jenifer <[fields.jenifer@epa.gov](mailto:fields.jenifer@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Leonard, Paul <[leonard.paul@epa.gov](mailto:leonard.paul@epa.gov)>; Dietz, Linda <[Dietz.Linda@epa.gov](mailto:Dietz.Linda@epa.gov)>; Brown, Kinshasa <[Brown.Kinshasa@epa.gov](mailto:Brown.Kinshasa@epa.gov)>; White, Terri-A <[White.Terri-A@epa.gov](mailto:White.Terri-A@epa.gov)>; Nitsch, Chad <[Nitsch.Chad@epa.gov](mailto:Nitsch.Chad@epa.gov)>; Miles, Amanda <[miles.amanda@epa.gov](mailto:miles.amanda@epa.gov)>; Howell, Amie <[Howell.Amie@epa.gov](mailto:Howell.Amie@epa.gov)>; Seneca, Roy <[Seneca.Roy@epa.gov](mailto:Seneca.Roy@epa.gov)>; Sternberg, David <[Sternberg.David@epa.gov](mailto:Sternberg.David@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: MEDIA INQUIRY: The News Journal Media Group (Sussex Co) - Blades clean-up follow-up questions

Thanks, ma'am. Will send to reporter now.

r/ Jeff Landis  
Region 3 Office of Public Affairs  
Media Relations/Executive Events Coordinator  
215-814-2921; mobile 215-901-7424



---

**From:** Fields, Jenifer <[fields.jenifer@epa.gov](mailto:fields.jenifer@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2020 4:21 PM  
**To:** Landis, Jeffrey <[Landis.Jeffrey@epa.gov](mailto:Landis.Jeffrey@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Leonard, Paul <[leonard.paul@epa.gov](mailto:leonard.paul@epa.gov)>; Dietz, Linda <[Dietz.Linda@epa.gov](mailto:Dietz.Linda@epa.gov)>; Brown, Kinshasa <[Brown.Kinshasa@epa.gov](mailto:Brown.Kinshasa@epa.gov)>; White, Terri-A <[White.Terri-A@epa.gov](mailto:White.Terri-A@epa.gov)>; Nitsch, Chad <[Nitsch.Chad@epa.gov](mailto:Nitsch.Chad@epa.gov)>; Miles, Amanda <[miles.amanda@epa.gov](mailto:miles.amanda@epa.gov)>; Howell, Amie <[Howell.Amie@epa.gov](mailto:Howell.Amie@epa.gov)>; Seneca, Roy <[Seneca.Roy@epa.gov](mailto:Seneca.Roy@epa.gov)>;

Sternberg, David <[Sternberg.David@epa.gov](mailto:Sternberg.David@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: MEDIA INQUIRY: The News Journal Media Group (Sussex Co) - Blades clean-up follow-up questions

Good to go.

Sent from my iPhone

On Jan 17, 2020, at 4:14 PM, Landis, Jeffrey <[Landis.Jeffrey@epa.gov](mailto:Landis.Jeffrey@epa.gov)> wrote:

Thank you, Paul!

r/ Jeff Landis  
Region 3 Office of Public Affairs  
Media Relations/Executive Events Coordinator  
215-814-2921; mobile 215-901-7424  
<image001.png>

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**From:** Leonard, Paul <[leonard.paul@epa.gov](mailto:leonard.paul@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2020 4:14 PM  
**To:** Landis, Jeffrey <[Landis.Jeffrey@epa.gov](mailto:Landis.Jeffrey@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Dietz, Linda <[Dietz.Linda@epa.gov](mailto:Dietz.Linda@epa.gov)>; Brown, Kinshasa <[Brown.Kinshasa@epa.gov](mailto:Brown.Kinshasa@epa.gov)>; White, Terri-A <[White.Terri-A@epa.gov](mailto:White.Terri-A@epa.gov)>; Nitsch, Chad <[Nitsch.Chad@epa.gov](mailto:Nitsch.Chad@epa.gov)>; Miles, Amanda <[miles.amanda@epa.gov](mailto:miles.amanda@epa.gov)>; Howell, Amie <[Howell.Amie@epa.gov](mailto:Howell.Amie@epa.gov)>; Seneca, Roy <[Seneca.Roy@epa.gov](mailto:Seneca.Roy@epa.gov)>; Sternberg, David <[Sternberg.David@epa.gov](mailto:Sternberg.David@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: MEDIA INQUIRY: The News Journal Media Group (Sussex Co) - Blades clean-up follow-up questions

Hi Jeff. This is good to go to the next step

Paul Leonard  
Acting Director  
Superfund and Emergency Management Division  
2158143350

On Jan 17, 2020, at 3:06 PM, Landis, Jeffrey <[Landis.Jeffrey@epa.gov](mailto:Landis.Jeffrey@epa.gov)> wrote:

Paul and Linda,

Sorry for the short turn, but your team developed, revised and is good to go with this EPA response to the reporter. Please see below and let me know if you're OK with me sending to our front office for approval. Thank you.

r/ Jeff Landis  
Region 3 Office of Public Affairs  
Media Relations/Executive Events Coordinator  
215-814-2921; mobile 215-901-7424  
<image001.png>

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**From:** Nevshahirlian, Stepan <[Nevshahirlian.Stepan@epa.gov](mailto:Nevshahirlian.Stepan@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2020 2:52 PM  
**To:** Landis, Jeffrey <[Landis.Jeffrey@epa.gov](mailto:Landis.Jeffrey@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Root, Charlie <[Root.Charlie@epa.gov](mailto:Root.Charlie@epa.gov)>; Taylor, Daniel <[taylor.daniel@epa.gov](mailto:taylor.daniel@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: MEDIA INQUIRY: The News Journal Media Group (Sussex Co) - Blades clean-up follow-up questions

Jeff,

The response looks ok to me. Thanks for coordinating.

Stepan

**Stepan Nevshahirlian**, Remedial Project Manager  
Site Remediation Branch  
DE, VA, WV Remedial Section  
Direct: 215.814.3402

**USEPA - Mid-Atlantic Region**  
1650 Arch Street (3SD23)  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029

---

**From:** Landis, Jeffrey <[Landis.Jeffrey@epa.gov](mailto:Landis.Jeffrey@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2020 2:19 PM  
**To:** Nevshahirlian, Stepan <[Nevshahirlian.Stepan@epa.gov](mailto:Nevshahirlian.Stepan@epa.gov)>; Taylor, Daniel <[taylor.daniel@epa.gov](mailto:taylor.daniel@epa.gov)>; Root, Charlie <[Root.Charlie@epa.gov](mailto:Root.Charlie@epa.gov)>; O'Loughlin, Connor <[oloughlin.connor@epa.gov](mailto:oloughlin.connor@epa.gov)>; Miles, Amanda <[miles.amanda@epa.gov](mailto:miles.amanda@epa.gov)>; Seneca, Roy <[Seneca.Roy@epa.gov](mailto:Seneca.Roy@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Howell, Amie <[Howell.Amie@epa.gov](mailto:Howell.Amie@epa.gov)>; Thomas, Christopher <[Thomas.Christopher@epa.gov](mailto:Thomas.Christopher@epa.gov)>; White, Terri-A <[White.Terri-A@epa.gov](mailto:White.Terri-A@epa.gov)>; Brown, Kinshasa <[Brown.Kinshasa@epa.gov](mailto:Brown.Kinshasa@epa.gov)>; Baker, Lorie <[Baker.Lorie@epa.gov](mailto:Baker.Lorie@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: MEDIA INQUIRY: The News Journal Media Group (Sussex Co) - Blades clean-up follow-up questions  
**Importance:** High

OK. Yes, that makes more sense and I see that now – differentiating between PFAS and metals. Please see our revised response below and let me know ASAP if we can send forward:

=====

**Reporter's additional/revised questions:**

1. I had asked during the meeting in Blades if the private wells that were tested for PFAS were also tested for metals. I'd like to double-check whether they were or not? I'm not seeing any indication in the documentation that they were. If that's the case, could you tell me why not?
2. I also wanted to ask someone at EPA why Blades is being proposed for Superfund listing, but not other PFAS contaminated sites in the

state? Is it because of the metals contamination? Because of economic reasons?

3. **How many comments from the public did EPA receive on this proposed listing?**
4. **I was hoping to speak with someone to specifically go over some of the sample results in Weston's final summary report dated June 2019 to better understand the concentrations and results, if there's any chance we could set up a phone call for that tomorrow. I'm not a scientist by any means, and am trying to make heads-or-tails of how bad this contamination is, and what the potential threat to public health is, particularly for people on unregulated private wells (I do understand that the town's water is being treated, regulated and falling within Safe Drinking Water parameters).**
5. **Maybe shedding some light on how the EPA's HRS ranking works, and how Blades really ranks on a scale of some clean up needed to a Love Canal situation? Anything you all can do to help me keep this accurate and in perspective would be great.**

#### **Reporter's Original Questions:**

I have a couple simple follow-up questions about the proposal to list Blades' groundwater as a Superfund site. Amanda or Daniel, would either of you have a couple minutes to chat briefly today or tomorrow?

I'd like to double-check on the status of metals contamination and get some clarity for our readers on why this site is being proposed vs. other PFAS sites in Delaware, and to make sure I have the possible timeline of this process accurate.

#### **EPA Region 3 Proposed Response:**

The Blades Groundwater Site (Site) was studied by the EPA's Superfund Site Assessment Program from the spring of 2017 to present. Several metals, which are common electroplating compounds, including chromium, cobalt, nickel, zinc, and hexavalent chromium, and PFAS were detected at onsite and offsite monitoring wells (with varying concentrations) that could pose a potential risk to human health and the environment.

Results of this Site assessment warranted the Blades Site being proposed to the National Priorities List (NPL). PFAS compounds have been detected in the three Town of Blades municipal wells, monitoring wells installed throughout the town, and domestic wells (also tested previously for metals by Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC)) located outside the town limits of Blades. As a removal action, DNREC, in cooperation with EPA, ensured that the public wells were connected to a treatment system and the domestic wells whose concentrations exceeded the Health Advisory Limit for PFAS compounds (70 parts per trillion) were provided a treatment system to prevent exposure of PFAS above the Health Advisory Limit.

The information gathered during the Site Investigation indicated the Site is a candidate for further EPA remedial investigation and potential remedial action to address the contaminated ground water. Lastly, DNREC requested EPA's assistance to ensure protection of public drinking water wells, over 100 residential wells, surface water, and wetlands surrounding the Site that may have been exposed to electroplating compounds and PFAS.

EPA will continue to work concurrently with DNREC to investigate areas throughout the State to determine if an area should be proposed to the National Priority List and become eligible for long term remedial cleanup activities.

The public comment period for the Site proposal to be added to the NPL began *November 8, 2019* and ended January 7, 2020. Four comments from the public were submitted during the public comment period. They can be accessed at <https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=EPA-HQ-OLEM-2019-0484>. EPA conducted a public meeting Dec. 5. EPA will review all comments submitted and make a determination if the Site will be added to the NPL. There are two opportunities for a Site to be added to the NPL; the spring and fall. If Blades Groundwater Superfund Site is added to the NPL, it will likely be during this time.

Please refer to the following websites for explanations on the Superfund program and the Hazard Ranking System (HRS), regarding how the process works for adding Sites onto the NPL: <https://www.epa.gov/superfund>, <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-site-assessment-process> and <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/introduction-hazard-ranking-system-hrs>.

After a Site is added to the NPL, EPA will begin the Remedial Investigation phase to fully define the nature and extent of contamination and the Feasibility Study to evaluate alternatives to clean up the Site. Risks associated with the site will be evaluated in detail during the Remedial Investigation through a risk assessment. At this time, potential risks are being dealt with through treatment systems on the public supply and impacted private wells. EPA will then issue a Proposed plan, describing the method to cleanup a Site, and then a Record of Decision documenting this decision. EPA will then begin the cleanup phase to restore a Site back to beneficial use. During the entire process EPA will continuously provide information and updates to the public.

r/ Jeff Landis  
Region 3 Office of Public Affairs  
Media Relations/Executive Events Coordinator  
215-814-2921; mobile 215-901-7424  
<image001.png>

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**From:** Nevshahirlian, Stepan <[Nevshahirlian.Stepan@epa.gov](mailto:Nevshahirlian.Stepan@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2020 1:59 PM  
**To:** Landis, Jeffrey <[Landis.Jeffrey@epa.gov](mailto:Landis.Jeffrey@epa.gov)>; Taylor, Daniel <[taylor.daniel@epa.gov](mailto:taylor.daniel@epa.gov)>; Root, Charlie <[Root.Charlie@epa.gov](mailto:Root.Charlie@epa.gov)>; O'Loughlin, Connor <[oloughlin.connor@epa.gov](mailto:oloughlin.connor@epa.gov)>; Miles, Amanda <[miles.amanda@epa.gov](mailto:miles.amanda@epa.gov)>; Seneca, Roy <[Seneca.Roy@epa.gov](mailto:Seneca.Roy@epa.gov)>

**Cc:** Howell, Amie <Howell.Amie@epa.gov>; Thomas, Christopher <Thomas.Christopher@epa.gov>; White, Terri-A <White.Terri-A@epa.gov>; Brown, Kinshasa <Brown.Kinshasa@epa.gov>; Baker, Lorie <Baker.Lorie@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: MEDIA INQUIRY: The News Journal Media Group (Sussex Co) - Blades clean-up follow-up questions

Thanks for the follow-up, Jeff.

Perhaps I'm misunderstanding the reporter's question. I thought the reporter is asking whether metals were tested for in the domestic wells:

**I had asked during the meeting in Blades if the private wells that were tested for PFAS were also tested for metals. I'd like to double-check whether they were or not? I'm not seeing any indication in the documentation that they were. If that's the case, could you tell me why not?**

EPA did not test the wells for metals. DNREC did during a previous sampling event.

Stepan

**Stepan Nevshahirlian**, Remedial Project Manager  
Site Remediation Branch  
DE, VA, WV Remedial Section  
Direct: 215.814.3402

**USEPA - Mid-Atlantic Region**  
1650 Arch Street (3SD23)  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029

---

**From:** Landis, Jeffrey <Landis.Jeffrey@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2020 1:41 PM  
**To:** Nevshahirlian, Stepan <Nevshahirlian.Stepan@epa.gov>; Taylor, Daniel <taylor.daniel@epa.gov>; Root, Charlie <Root.Charlie@epa.gov>; O'Loughlin, Connor <oloughlin.connor@epa.gov>; Miles, Amanda <miles.amanda@epa.gov>; Seneca, Roy <Seneca.Roy@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Howell, Amie <Howell.Amie@epa.gov>; Thomas, Christopher <Thomas.Christopher@epa.gov>; White, Terri-A <White.Terri-A@epa.gov>; Brown, Kinshasa <Brown.Kinshasa@epa.gov>; Baker, Lorie <Baker.Lorie@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: MEDIA INQUIRY: The News Journal Media Group (Sussex Co) - Blades clean-up follow-up questions  
**Importance:** High

Team,

## Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

# Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

r/ Jeff Landis  
Region 3 Office of Public Affairs  
Media Relations/Executive Events Coordinator  
215-814-2921; mobile 215-901-7424  
<image001.png>

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**From:** Nevshahirlian, Stepan <Nevshahirlian.Stepan@epa.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2020 11:49 AM  
**To:** Landis, Jeffrey <Landis.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; Taylor, Daniel <taylor.daniel@epa.gov>; Root, Charlie <Root.Charlie@epa.gov>; O'Loughlin, Connor <oloughlin.connor@epa.gov>; Miles, Amanda <miles.amanda@epa.gov>; Seneca, Roy <Seneca.Roy@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Howell, Amie <Howell.Amie@epa.gov>; Thomas, Christopher <Thomas.Christopher@epa.gov>; White, Terri-A <White.Terri-A@epa.gov>; Brown, Kinshasa <Brown.Kinshasa@epa.gov>; Baker, Lorie <Baker.Lorie@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: MEDIA INQUIRY: The News Journal Media Group (Sussex Co) - Blades clean-up follow-up questions

Jeff,

Lorie Baker (site assessment) and I prepared some additional responses that are included below in red. I'm around this afternoon if you would like to discuss or have further questions.

Stepan

**Stepan Nevshahirlian**, Remedial Project Manager  
Site Remediation Branch  
DE, VA, WV Remedial Section  
Direct: 215.814.3402

**USEPA - Mid-Atlantic Region**  
1650 Arch Street (3SD23)  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029

## Reporter's additional/revised questions:

1. I had asked during the meeting in Blades if the private wells that were tested for PFAS were also tested for metals. I'd like to double-check whether they were or not? I'm not seeing any indication in the documentation that they were. If that's the case, could you tell me why not?

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)



## **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**

2. I also wanted to ask someone at EPA why Blades is being proposed for Superfund listing, but not other PFAS contaminated sites in the state? Is it because of the metals contamination? Because of economic reasons?

## **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**

3. How many comments from the public did EPA receive on this proposed listing?

## **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**

4. I was hoping to speak with someone to specifically go over some of the sample results in Weston's final summary report dated June 2019 to better understand the concentrations and results, if there's any chance we could set up a phone call for that tomorrow. I'm not a scientist by any means, and am trying to make heads-or-tails of how bad this contamination is, and what the potential threat to public health is, particularly for people on unregulated private wells (I do understand that the town's water is being treated, regulated and falling within Safe Drinking Water parameters).

## **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**

5. Maybe shedding some light on how the EPA's HRS ranking works, and how Blades really ranks on a scale of some clean up needed to a Love

Canal situation? Anything you all can do to help me keep this accurate and in perspective would be great.

## Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

---

**From:** Landis, Jeffrey <[Landis.Jeffrey@epa.gov](mailto:Landis.Jeffrey@epa.gov)>

**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2020 8:35 AM

**To:** Taylor, Daniel <[taylor.daniel@epa.gov](mailto:taylor.daniel@epa.gov)>; Root, Charlie <[Root.Charlie@epa.gov](mailto:Root.Charlie@epa.gov)>; O'Loughlin, Connor <[oloughlin.connor@epa.gov](mailto:oloughlin.connor@epa.gov)>; Miles, Amanda <[miles.amanda@epa.gov](mailto:miles.amanda@epa.gov)>; Seneca, Roy <[Seneca.Roy@epa.gov](mailto:Seneca.Roy@epa.gov)>

**Cc:** Nevshehirlian, Stepan <[Nevshehirlian.Stepan@epa.gov](mailto:Nevshehirlian.Stepan@epa.gov)>; Howell, Amie <[Howell.Amie@epa.gov](mailto:Howell.Amie@epa.gov)>; Thomas, Christopher <[Thomas.Christopher@epa.gov](mailto:Thomas.Christopher@epa.gov)>;

White, Terri-A <[White.Terri-A@epa.gov](mailto:White.Terri-A@epa.gov)>; Brown, Kinshasa <[Brown.Kinshasa@epa.gov](mailto:Brown.Kinshasa@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: MEDIA INQUIRY: The News Journal Media Group (Sussex Co) - Blades clean-up follow-up questions

**Importance:** High

Team,

Please be advised that after I reached out to the reporter late yesterday afternoon, she wrote back later (5 p.m. yesterday), said the deadline of having the information today was fine, but she posed a few additional questions, in addition to changing the verbiage of her initial follow-ups. Please see the questions and my quick evaluations/suggestions on how we handle:

**Reporter's additional/revised questions:**

1. I had asked during the meeting in Blades if the private wells that were tested for PFAS were also tested for metals. I'd like to double-check whether they were or not? I'm not seeing any indication in the documentation that they were. If that's the case, could you tell me why not?

## **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**

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## **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**

3. How many comments from the public did EPA receive on this proposed listing?

## **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**

4. I was hoping to speak with someone to specifically go over some of the sample results in Weston's final summary report dated June 2019 to better understand the concentrations and results, if there's any chance we could set up a phone call for that tomorrow. I'm not a scientist by any means, and am trying to make heads-or-tails of how bad this contamination is, and what the potential threat to public health is, particularly for people on unregulated private wells (I do understand that the town's water is being treated, regulated and falling within Safe Drinking Water parameters).

## **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**

5. Maybe shedding some light on how the EPA's HRS ranking works, and how Blades really ranks on a scale of some clean up needed to a Love Canal situation? Anything you all can do to help me keep this accurate and in perspective would be great.

## **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**

Please let me know if this is feasible to answer with a deadline of today. I am certainly willing to discuss with anyone in person about how to respond to this reporter. Thanks!

r/ Jeff Landis  
Region 3 Office of Public Affairs  
Media Relations/Executive Events Coordinator  
215-814-2921; mobile 215-901-7424  
<image001.png>

---

**From:** Landis, Jeffrey  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 16, 2020 4:50 PM  
**To:** Taylor, Daniel <taylor.daniel@epa.gov>; Root, Charlie <Root.Charlie@epa.gov>; O'Loughlin, Connor <oloughlin.connor@epa.gov>; Miles, Amanda <miles.amanda@epa.gov>; Seneca, Roy <Seneca.Roy@epa.gov>  
**Cc:** Nevshahirlian, Stepan <Nevshahirlian.Stepan@epa.gov>; Howell, Amie <Howell.Amie@epa.gov>; Thomas, Christopher <Thomas.Christopher@epa.gov>; White, Terri-A <White.Terri-A@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: MEDIA INQUIRY: The News Journal Media Group (Sussex Co) - Blades clean-up follow-up questions  
**Importance:** High

Team,

Please see the revised version incorporating everyone's input as of 4:45 pm, 16 Jan 2020, that I hope to get to the front office tomorrow:

=====

**MEDIA INQUIRY: The News Journal Media Group (Sussex Co) - Blades clean-up follow-up questions**

**Reporter's Questions:**

I have a couple simple follow-up questions about the proposal to list Blades' groundwater as a Superfund site. Amanda or Daniel, would either of you have a couple minutes to chat briefly today or tomorrow?

I'd like to double-check on the status of metals contamination and get some clarity for our readers on why this site is being proposed vs. other PFAS sites in Delaware, and to make sure I have the possible timeline of this process accurate.

**EPA Region 3 Proposed Response:**

**Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**

## Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

r/ Jeff Landis  
Region 3 Office of Public Affairs  
Media Relations/Executive Events Coordinator  
215-814-2921; mobile 215-901-7424  
<image001.png>

---

**From:** Landis, Jeffrey  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 16, 2020 4:29 PM  
**To:** Taylor, Daniel <[taylor.daniel@epa.gov](mailto:taylor.daniel@epa.gov)>; Root, Charlie <[Root.Charlie@epa.gov](mailto:Root.Charlie@epa.gov)>;  
O'Loughlin, Connor <[oloughlin.connor@epa.gov](mailto:oloughlin.connor@epa.gov)>; Miles, Amanda  
<[miles.amanda@epa.gov](mailto:miles.amanda@epa.gov)>; Seneca, Roy <[Seneca.Roy@epa.gov](mailto:Seneca.Roy@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Nevshehirlian, Stepan <[Nevshehirlian.Stepan@epa.gov](mailto:Nevshehirlian.Stepan@epa.gov)>; Howell, Amie

<Howell.Amie@epa.gov>; Thomas, Christopher <Thomas.Christopher@epa.gov>;  
White, Terri-A <White.Terri-A@epa.gov>

**Subject:** MEDIA INQUIRY: The News Journal Media Group (Sussex Co) - Blades clean-up  
follow-up questions

**Importance:** High

Team,

Re-labeling the media request for tracking purposes. Also, I am about to head home,  
but I have not gotten a response from the reporter if a deadline of sometime tomorrow  
will work for her. I'll be in tomorrow morning.

r/ Jeff Landis  
Region 3 Office of Public Affairs  
Media Relations/Executive Events Coordinator  
215-814-2921; mobile 215-901-7424  
<image001.png>

---

**From:** Landis, Jeffrey

**Sent:** Thursday, January 16, 2020 4:17 PM

**To:** Taylor, Daniel <taylor.daniel@epa.gov>; Root, Charlie <Root.Charlie@epa.gov>;  
O'Loughlin, Connor <oloughlin.connor@epa.gov>; Miles, Amanda  
<miles.amanda@epa.gov>; Seneca, Roy <Seneca.Roy@epa.gov>

**Cc:** Nevshahirlian, Stepan <Nevshahirlian.Stepan@epa.gov>; Howell, Amie  
<Howell.Amie@epa.gov>; Thomas, Christopher <Thomas.Christopher@epa.gov>;  
White, Terri-A <White.Terri-A@epa.gov>

**Subject:** RE: Blades Superfund proposal follow-up/fact-check

**Importance:** High

Daniel,

Thanks. I think the response is very thorough. I have made some edits and wanted to  
make sure the information is still accurate before we vet it back through your program,  
your division director and then through our front office. Please see below (changes in  
red, questions in red italics):

r/ Jeff Landis  
Region 3 Office of Public Affairs  
Media Relations/Executive Events Coordinator  
215-814-2921; mobile 215-901-7424  
<image001.png>

=====

### **Reporter's Questions:**

I have a couple simple follow-up questions about the proposal to list Blades'  
groundwater as a Superfund site. Amanda or Daniel, would either of you have a  
couple minutes to chat briefly today or tomorrow?

I'd like to double-check on the status of metals contamination and get some clarity for our readers on why this site is being proposed vs. other PFAS sites in Delaware, and to make sure I have the possible timeline of this process accurate.

**EPA Region 3 Proposed Response:**

## **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**

---

**From:** Taylor, Daniel <[taylor.daniel@epa.gov](mailto:taylor.daniel@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 16, 2020 3:39 PM  
**To:** Root, Charlie <[Root.Charlie@epa.gov](mailto:Root.Charlie@epa.gov)>; O'Loughlin, Connor <[oloughlin.connor@epa.gov](mailto:oloughlin.connor@epa.gov)>; Miles, Amanda <[miles.amanda@epa.gov](mailto:miles.amanda@epa.gov)>; Landis, Jeffrey <[Landis.Jeffrey@epa.gov](mailto:Landis.Jeffrey@epa.gov)>; Seneca, Roy <[Seneca.Roy@epa.gov](mailto:Seneca.Roy@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Nevshehirlian, Stepan <[Nevshehirlian.Stepan@epa.gov](mailto:Nevshehirlian.Stepan@epa.gov)>; Howell, Amie <[Howell.Amie@epa.gov](mailto:Howell.Amie@epa.gov)>; Thomas, Christopher <[Thomas.Christopher@epa.gov](mailto:Thomas.Christopher@epa.gov)>; White, Terri-A <[White.Terri-A@epa.gov](mailto:White.Terri-A@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Blades Superfund proposal follow-up/fact-check

Hey Roy and Jeff,  
I wanted to add you both to the chain we have for the request.  
Please let me know if I should shorten our response, if we plan to respond via email or respond by a phone call.

Thanks.

---

**From:** Taylor, Daniel  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 16, 2020 2:09 PM  
**To:** Root, Charlie <[Root.Charlie@epa.gov](mailto:Root.Charlie@epa.gov)>; O'Loughlin, Connor <[oloughlin.connor@epa.gov](mailto:oloughlin.connor@epa.gov)>; Miles, Amanda <[miles.amanda@epa.gov](mailto:miles.amanda@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Nevshehirlian, Stepan <[Nevshehirlian.Stepan@epa.gov](mailto:Nevshehirlian.Stepan@epa.gov)>; Howell, Amie <[Howell.Amie@epa.gov](mailto:Howell.Amie@epa.gov)>; Thomas, Christopher <[Thomas.Christopher@epa.gov](mailto:Thomas.Christopher@epa.gov)>; White, Terri-A <[White.Terri-A@epa.gov](mailto:White.Terri-A@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Blades Superfund proposal follow-up/fact-check

I added Connors information, Charlies and mine into one email. Let me know what you think. I am not in tomorrow so wanted to make sure I got this to the group.

EPA Region 3 Proposed Response:

## Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)



## Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

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**From:** Taylor, Daniel

**Sent:** Thursday, January 16, 2020 1:50 PM

**To:** Root, Charlie <[Root.Charlie@epa.gov](mailto:Root.Charlie@epa.gov)>; O'Loughlin, Connor  
<[oloughlin.connor@epa.gov](mailto:oloughlin.connor@epa.gov)>; Miles, Amanda <[miles.amanda@epa.gov](mailto:miles.amanda@epa.gov)>

**Cc:** Nevshehirlian, Stepan <[Nevshehirlian.Stepan@epa.gov](mailto:Nevshehirlian.Stepan@epa.gov)>; Howell, Amie  
<[Howell.Amie@epa.gov](mailto:Howell.Amie@epa.gov)>; Thomas, Christopher <[Thomas.Christopher@epa.gov](mailto:Thomas.Christopher@epa.gov)>;  
White, Terri-A <[White.Terri-A@epa.gov](mailto:White.Terri-A@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: Blades Superfund proposal follow-up/fact-check

I also put together the below. I think between Connors, Charlies and mine we can have a decent summary.

## Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

## Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

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**From:** Root, Charlie <Root.Charlie@epa.gov>

**Sent:** Thursday, January 16, 2020 1:46 PM

**To:** O'Loughlin, Connor <oloughlin.connor@epa.gov>; Taylor, Daniel <taylor.daniel@epa.gov>; Miles, Amanda <miles.amanda@epa.gov>

**Cc:** Nevshehirlian, Stepan <Nevshehirlian.Stepan@epa.gov>; Howell, Amie <Howell.Amie@epa.gov>; Thomas, Christopher <Thomas.Christopher@epa.gov>; White, Terri-A <White.Terri-A@epa.gov>

**Subject:** RE: Blades Superfund proposal follow-up/fact-check

Connor – Thanks for taking the first crack at a response it's very thorough. I would suggest a more succinct answer and took a shot below using Connor's info. Please take a look and see if it is accurate.

## Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

*Charlie Root*

Chief, DE, VA, WV Remedial Section

US EPA Region 3

Superfund & Emergency Management Division

Site Remediation Branch

1650 Arch Street (3SD23)

Philadelphia, PA 19103

(215) 814-3193

Cell – (215) 284-4678

---

**From:** O'Loughlin, Connor <[oloughlin.connor@epa.gov](mailto:oloughlin.connor@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 16, 2020 12:56 PM  
**To:** Taylor, Daniel <[taylor.daniel@epa.gov](mailto:taylor.daniel@epa.gov)>; Miles, Amanda <[miles.amanda@epa.gov](mailto:miles.amanda@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Nevshehirlian, Stepan <[Nevshehirlian.Stepan@epa.gov](mailto:Nevshehirlian.Stepan@epa.gov)>; Howell, Amie <[Howell.Amie@epa.gov](mailto:Howell.Amie@epa.gov)>; Root, Charlie <[Root.Charlie@epa.gov](mailto:Root.Charlie@epa.gov)>; Thomas, Christopher <[Thomas.Christopher@epa.gov](mailto:Thomas.Christopher@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Blades Superfund proposal follow-up/fact-check

Dan and Amanda,

Let me know if this may help to answer the reporter's question.

To respond to this reporter's question:

"I'd like to double-check on the status of metals contamination and get some clarity for our readers on why this site is being proposed vs. other PFAS sites in Delaware, and to make sure I have the possible timeline of this process accurate."

## Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Thank you

Connor O'Loughlin P.G.  
Environmental Protection Agency, Region III  
Superfund & Emergency Management Division (SEMD)  
Site Assessment Manager, (3SD12)  
1650 Arch Street,  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029  
phone 215-814-3304  
Cell 412-779-0444

---

**From:** Root, Charlie <[Root.Charlie@epa.gov](mailto:Root.Charlie@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 16, 2020 12:21 PM  
**To:** Taylor, Daniel <[taylor.daniel@epa.gov](mailto:taylor.daniel@epa.gov)>; O'Loughlin, Connor <[oloughlin.connor@epa.gov](mailto:oloughlin.connor@epa.gov)>; Howell, Amie <[Howell.Amie@epa.gov](mailto:Howell.Amie@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Miles, Amanda <[miles.amanda@epa.gov](mailto:miles.amanda@epa.gov)>; Sternberg, David <[Sternberg.David@epa.gov](mailto:Sternberg.David@epa.gov)>; Nevshehirlian, Stepan <[Nevshehirlian.Stepan@epa.gov](mailto:Nevshehirlian.Stepan@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Blades Superfund proposal follow-up/fact-check

Hi Dan,  
Thanks for raising this. It would be great if Connor, you and Amanda craft a draft response and then Amie and I can make sure the chain is comfortable before you get back to the reporter.

***Charlie Root***

Chief, DE, VA, WV Remedial Section  
US EPA Region 3  
Superfund & Emergency Management Division  
Site Remediation Branch  
1650 Arch Street (3SD23)  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
(215) 814-3193  
Cell – (215) 284-4678

---

**From:** Taylor, Daniel <[taylor.daniel@epa.gov](mailto:taylor.daniel@epa.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 16, 2020 10:11 AM  
**To:** O'Loughlin, Connor <[oloughlin.connor@epa.gov](mailto:oloughlin.connor@epa.gov)>; Root, Charlie <[Root.Charlie@epa.gov](mailto:Root.Charlie@epa.gov)>; Howell, Amie <[Howell.Amie@epa.gov](mailto:Howell.Amie@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Miles, Amanda <[miles.amanda@epa.gov](mailto:miles.amanda@epa.gov)>; Sternberg, David <[Sternberg.David@epa.gov](mailto:Sternberg.David@epa.gov)>; Nevshehirlian, Stepan <[Nevshehirlian.Stepan@epa.gov](mailto:Nevshehirlian.Stepan@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Blades Superfund proposal follow-up/fact-check

Connor, I thought part of this question may be relevant for you since it is talking about getting a Site listed.  
Charlie and Amie, with the sensitivity about PFAS, I thought you should be aware of the question if there was a particular way management wants to address PFAS.

---

**From:** Lauria, Madeline <[MLauria@delawareonline.com](mailto:MLauria@delawareonline.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 16, 2020 10:04 AM  
**To:** Miles, Amanda <[miles.amanda@epa.gov](mailto:miles.amanda@epa.gov)>; Taylor, Daniel <[taylor.daniel@epa.gov](mailto:taylor.daniel@epa.gov)>  
**Cc:** Sternberg, David <[Sternberg.David@epa.gov](mailto:Sternberg.David@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** Blades Superfund proposal follow-up/fact-check

Hello EPA team,

I have a couple simple follow-up questions about the proposal to list Blades' groundwater as a Superfund site. Amanda or Daniel, would either of you have a couple minutes to chat briefly today or tomorrow?

I'd like to double-check on the status of metals contamination and get some clarity for our readers on why this site is being proposed vs. other PFAS sites in Delaware, and to make sure I have the possible timeline of this process accurate.

I look forward to hearing from someone.

Thanks,

**Maddy Lauria**

Environment/Sussex County Reporter  
<image002.png>

950 West Basin Road  
New Castle, DE 19720  
Cell: 302-345-0608  
[mlauria@delawareonline.com](mailto:mlauria@delawareonline.com)